

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-22. Claims 1-22 were rejected by the Examiner. By this amendment, claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended.

In an Advisory Action mailed on September 21, 2004, more than six months after the Final Office Action was mailed on March 4, 2004, and more than four months after an Amendment and Response After Final was submitted on May 4, 2004, the Examiner entered and considered the Amendment and Response After Final and rejected claims 1-22 in light of Figure 7(C) of Iizuka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,355,887).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner had rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-12, 14-16, and 21-22 as being anticipated by Iizuka and claims 3, 7-10, 13, and 17-20 as being unpatentable over Iizuka and further in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,622,174). The Examiner's rejections in the Examiner's Final Office Action were addressed by the Applicant in the Applicant's Amendment and Response After Final.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to reflect that the pattern(s) of indicia comprise set(s) of tagging symbols. None of the prior art teaches or suggests, among other things, overlaying sets of tagging symbols on a displayed image corresponding to anatomical locations within a moving structure and displacement of the anatomical locations. Additionally, independent claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended to add the additional limitation that the time period is selected. None of the prior art teaches or suggests, among other things, that the time period for imaging and displacement analysis may be selected. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully

submits that independent claims 1, 11 and 21 and their corresponding dependent claims 2-10, 12-20 and 22, respectively, should be allowable.

The Applicant now turns to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-22 over Iizuka, including specifically the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-22 in view of Figure 7(C) of Iizuka. First, Iizuka does not use patterns of indicia to visualize displacement on an image. As illustrated in Figure 7(C) and other figures, the display in Iizuka of tissue displacement uses luminances (i.e., emitted or reflected light) to represent displacement in an ultrasound image (col. 3, lines 28-35 and lines 54-59; col. 4, lines 66-68, col. 5, lines 1-4; col. 10, lines 13-21). Conversely, Iizuka does not teach or suggest overlaying a set of tagging symbols or indicia onto an image of a moving structure, as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 21.

Additionally, Iizuka does not teach or suggest a selecting a time interval within which to track the displacement based on the first pattern of indicia. This limitation is recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Iizuka does not discuss selection or use of a time interval. Rather than selecting a time interval, Iizuka simply begins when the starting point is selected and always times between maximum displacements, such as heartbeats (col. 9, lines 64-68; col. 10, lines 1-43). No selection occurs in Iizuka.

Thus, Iizuka does not teach or suggest the limitations of the claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 should be allowable.

Furthermore, combining Yamazaki with Iizuka would not teach or suggest the limitations of the claimed invention. Assuming for the sake of argument that Yamazaki

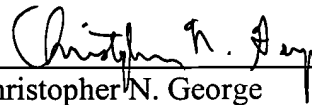
and Iizuka could or would be combined, the color flow movement velocity calculation system of Yamazaki does not teach or suggest the use of patterns of indicia or selecting a certain time interval for displacement analysis. Therefore, the teachings of Yamazaki do not cure the defects in Iizuka, and, thus, a combination of Yamazaki with Iizuka would neither teach nor suggest the limitations of the claimed invention, such as those recited above. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the application now believed to be in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account of GTC, Account No. 070845.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 21, 2004



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